

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-52 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claims 1, 8, 9, 24, 28, 36, 37, and 50 have been amended; claims 2, 3, 33-35, 38-49, 51, and 52 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 36, 37, and 50 are the independent claims of the application.

In the Final Office Action mailed on March 28, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8-13, 33-35, 38-47, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serizawa *et al.*, U.S. Patent Number 5,283,531 ("Serizawa" hereinafter) in view of Schramm, U.S. Patent Number 5,812,601 ("Schramm" hereinafter). Claims 48 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kot, U.S. Patent Number 5,930,296 ("Kot"). The Examiner also rejected claims 2 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serizawa in view of Schramm and in further view of Visotsky *et al.*, U.S. Patent Number 6,175,588 ("Visotsky"). Finally, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 14-32, 36, 37, and 50 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully respond to this Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the notification of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 14-32, 36, 37, and 50.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 3, including the limitations of the intervening claim 2. Amended claim 1 should therefore be allowable. Claims 6-32 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and should be allowed at least for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 36, 37, and 50 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and intervening claims, if any.¹ As amended, claims 36, 37, and 50 should therefore be allowable.

¹ It should be noted, however, that a minor informality previously present in the "processing the symbol estimates" clause of claims 33 has been corrected. In the clause, recitation of "first stream of recovered symbols" is now

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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preceded with the definite article "the." The limitations of claim 33 have been carried into claims 36 and 37 with the informality corrected.